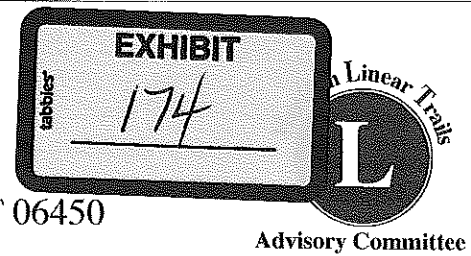




Meriden Linear Trails

Advisory Committee
142 East Main Street, Room 229, Meriden, CT 06450



To:

Paul E. Stacey

January 30, 2010

Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse
Planning & Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF

FEB 03 2010

Dear Mr. Stacey:

Attached please find the letter submitted to the Meriden Record-Journal for printing.

The letter reflects the position taken by the Meriden Linear Trail Advisory Committee in regards to the proposed Streamflow Regulations. Our Committee believes that it is imperative that DEP allow the QRWA to have a strong, leading voice, in the revised regulations.

Thank you for allowing us to address this matter.

Joseph Zajac
Chairman
Meriden Linear Trail Advisory Committee

cc; David James, QRWA

*Working to create a network of quality multi-purpose trails
for recreation, education and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

Since its beginnings in 1980, the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association has been the guardian of not only the river that identifies the all volunteer organization, but of all waters, be they streams, brooks or ponds. Here in Meriden, we most identify them by their works on the Quinnipiac River from Cheshire to North Haven, including Hanover Pond. With the establishment of the Meriden Linear Trail Advisory Committee in 2004, and the construction of the Gorge Linear Trail, a new partnership was formed. The Linear Trail Committee, aware of early QRWA successes', was proud to join in efforts alongside the QRWA for the betterment of the Quinnipiac River abutting our signature trail leading to Hanover Pond, and beyond.

Recently we have been made aware of new Department of Environmental Protection "Streamflow Regulations", which in layman's language, require that enough water be left in every stream in the state so that they won't die of thirst. While the draft regulations seem to be reasonable, and science-based, there is considerable opposition from water companies, golf courses, and others who simply don't want water takings to be regulated. This represents a new era, where water is regarded as a public resource, and the needs of the stream itself is considered in allocating water resources.

The issues with the proposed "Streamflow Regulations" are many and complicated. The revised legislation should require dialog, and input from organizations like the QRWA. The Meriden Linear Trail Committee requests that concerned citizens become informed on the changes being considered, and voice support for QRWA input in the DEP process. These new regulations will finally give the QRWA the state level planning they have spent decades requesting. If you want to learn more, go to www.ct.gov/dep and click on "Stream Flow Standards", or visit the QRWA website: www.qrwa.org for information on how you can help.

Joseph Zajac
Meriden Linear Trail Committee

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